

A CALIFORNIA WOMAN IS AMERICA'S LEADING VIOLET GROWER

Growing violets for the markets of the western half of the United States has developed into a large business in California and undoubtedly much of the credit is due to the initiative of Mrs. R. H. Darbee, known to florists throughout the country as "the Tricolor Violet Woman."

Beginning as an amateur with a flower bed under her window when she was a girl, Mrs. Darbee more than thirty years ago planted what is said to have been the first commercial violet garden in California. Her business has expanded until now she has her famous violet garden at Colma, San Mateo county, within a few miles of the San Francisco city limits, and also gardens at Ocean View and San Leandro, the latter across San Francisco Bay.

At Colma she has fifteen acres planted to violets. The climate is such that none of the intensive indoor culture of the plants required in the East is necessary in California. The plants

A Beautiful Booklet FREE About Water Lilies

Tells how to have them in a tub or pool in your garden; describes the best sorts, and shows four varieties in all their glorious natural colors. Send to-day for a copy.

WILLIAM TRICKER, Box 18, Arlington, New Jersey.

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A Five Dollar Investment that spells Crop Security

ALPHANO

Alpha Humus eliminates war risks in the home vegetable garden. It acts as insurance and crop guarantee at the same time. With potatoes, celery, lettuce, etc., it will double and treble your garden yields.

Then why hesitate? Order a sample shipment to-day! Learn all about the remarkable work of this soil builder, growth maker and crop getter.

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5-100 lb. bags \$5. \$12. a ton in bags by carload
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CHOICE HARDY HYBRID TEA ROSES

Mrs. Aaron Ward—Wonderfully prolific bloomer of strong growth. The rose foliage is unusually attractive, a rich, waxy green. The flowers are full double, of good form and attractive in the bud state. The color of the flowers varies from Indian yellow, lighter toward the edges, to yellow tinted white, but always beautiful.

Mrs. Caroline Testout—Flowers beautiful, setting in pink, full and fragrant. Flowers freely, excellent for cutting.

Grises an "Etoile de Hollande" rose, succeeding under most ordinary conditions. The strong growth, always in bloom, very fragrant. Color, rich scarlet, with a very free bloom.

Hardy Climbing Roses.
Tausendrosen—Flowers here in clusters. Beautiful shell pink. Hawthorn—Crimson shading to white. Flowers freely. One of the best single roses.

Strong, robust plants All 30 cents each; \$3.00 per dozen. For parcels post or express delivery add 25 cents per dozen.

FREE The one double Pearl Tausendrosen with every order of flowers or vegetable seeds amounting to \$1.

Vaughan's Seed Store

are set out in the field, where they not only grow during the summer but when October comes there is no need of frames or transplanting to houses. The blooming season is from October 15 to about April 1.

Introduces California Violets.
"It is said to have been Mrs. Darbee who introduced California violets to the East. While in the East more than a quarter of a century ago she visited a number of florists and told them of the wonderful violets she had produced in her garden. She offered to forward some of the blooms, which she did upon her return to California. Her method of packing proved to be efficient and the blooms reached their destinations in good shape."

This was the opening wedge into markets other than San Francisco. Orders began to come to Mrs. Darbee from various parts of the country. As the business grew she was a factor in inducing the American Express Company to run a refrigerator car from San Francisco to New York. From the start it carried many violets and other flowers and the refrigerator car has become an institution, making stops at various cities along the route for the discharge of local consignments.

Became Grower as a Girl.
Mrs. Darbee attributes her success as a grower to her love of flowers, especially violets. She relates that as early in life as she was able to dig in the soil she began to grow flowers. While still in school her garden, especially the violet borders, attracted the attention of San Francisco florists, who purchased her flowers. Her husband died two years later and Mrs. Darbee entered a business college. Then she became a teacher in the college and later a stenographer in a law office.

With money saved while she held these positions she began business on a larger scale. Her initial success with violets had been as a grower of the Marie Louise and the Russian variety. Now California was introduced and this was the variety she selected for her venture.

Through a real estate agent, Mrs. Darbee leased several acres near Colma, Cal., and the rent she paid was several hundred dollars less, with which she sank wells, or rather sank the money into wells, as she expressed it. The wells proved failures and after her violets had been planted she had

no means to water them. Although her money was gone her courage was not and the following year Mrs. Darbee planted several acres of a neighbor's land to violets. The soil was richer and water was available. This was the beginning of her great success as that year she netted \$2,500 on her violet crop.

The following year, after the fields were planted, and when the plants were vigorous, Mrs. Darbee decided to join a party going to the Paris Exposition. This trip brought her in touch with the Eastern markets. Her crop, therefore, had been entirely marketed in San Francisco, but after the introduction this market was gradually dropped until practically all of Mrs. Darbee's stock was shipped to cities north and east, occasional shipments going beyond the Mississippi.

The demand for California violets grew so rapidly that Mrs. Darbee was unable to supply it and stock from other growers was used to fill orders, which opened the way for a commission and jobbing trade. Violets also paved the way for other California flowers that are good shippers, and now chrysanthemums in season find their way into nearly all the markets west of Chicago. There are many growers and shippers.

"We should never complain about this great, big, wonderful United States," says Mrs. Darbee. "It is so easy to make a living if we only go about it, and I believe the surest way is to cultivate land. Intensive cultivation is best and near the outskirts of a great city, where one has the opportunity of marketing his products."

HEADING CABBAGES.
Several years in succession we planted cabbages and lettuce, but they would not "head." We tried different varieties, but always met with failure. The reason of the garden thrived, we thought the soil was not suited to them. Finally a friend suggested that we should tie them up with raffia and water them at sundown. Since then we have had large and healthy heads of cabbage and lettuce.

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JAPANESE ARE VEGETARIANS.
By H. H. BERGER.
Very little meat is produced or consumed in Japan, the people depending mainly on vegetables, such as rice, fish, certain bulbs such as tiger lily and seaweed, which are very nourishing and different from anything found along our seacoast.

Peas and beans are largely cultivated in Japan, which resemble our bush beans and are very prolific, including twenty or more varieties; radishes in all sizes, including the sakurajima, which grows to an immense size, weighing from half a pound to a pound. The long white radish, which is used to twelve inches long and very delicious.

Cucumbers include the climbing variety which has been introduced in this country; carrots of large size and fine flavor; eggplants, turnips and a pumpkin which in size and flavor rivals our best. Cucumbers are also raised and cooked as we cook turnips. The udo compares favorably with asparagus.

The delicious Chinese cabbage makes an excellent table dish and is used in many ways.

In Japan vegetables in seasonable assortment are piled in two baskets, one carried across the shoulders on a bamboo pole, brought fresh daily to the door for the housewife's selection.

All these vegetables can be grown in our American gardens and the cultivation is the same as required for our vegetables. They have been tested and recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture.

FARM AND GARDEN WORK ON SUNDAY.
Mayor Curley of Boston is making an effort to have the old blue law repealed which makes it a misdemeanor for anyone to work on Sunday.

On Sunday, and Gov. McCall of Massachusetts is reported as being in favor of legislation to permit certain forms of gardening on Sundays as a necessity due to war conditions. Necessary labor is excepted in the provisions of the old "blue laws."

Many years' observation and careful tests have demonstrated to the writer that man, beasts and plants require regular periods of complete rest and that working men or beasts "over time" on any Sunday or holiday does not result in saving, but a loss of time and not results. When the Lord gave the commandment to the Israelites, "Six days thou shalt labor and do all thy work . . . but on the seventh day, thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy ox, nor thy ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor the stranger that is within thy gates."

He knew what was best and man has never been able to improve on this universal law, but it has been used by those who have followed it have prospered and those ignoring it have failed. Rome and other ancient powers disregarded this law and were wiped out. America cannot afford to make the mistake of treating the Sabbath lightly, whether it be observed on the first or last day of the week.

ROCHESTER FLOWER SHOW.
The premier list for amateur flower growers for the Rochester, N. Y., Flower Show, September 3 to 8, is out. Flowers may be sent to the show and will be properly staged by the committee in vases will be provided by the management.

Liberal cash and special premiums are offered. The classes are made up of the most common home garden varieties, that any one can grow to perfection with ordinary care and at little expense. An effort will be made to make this the largest amateur exhibit ever given in this country.



A California violet garden.

F. Edwards, secretary, 303 Powers Building, Rochester, N. Y. All amateurs, regardless of where they reside, are entitled to compete.

POTATO BUG AND DISEASE CONTROL.

Bordeaux mixture, made of four pounds of copper sulphate, 300 pounds of quicklime and fifty gallons of water, is used by potato growers to ward off fungous diseases. If Paris green is added to this material, it will kill the bugs within a day; and, when arsenate of lead is also mixed in the mixture, it must be applied to the vines after they have been sprayed with the Bordeaux mixture. The Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station advises the use of these compounds soon after potatoes come up and again about two weeks later. Sometimes a third application ten days to two weeks after the second is necessary. Early in September the second brood of beetles appears, and the treatment must be repeated then and about two weeks later. On young vines fifty gallons will be sufficient to spray an acre, but when the vines are large two or three times this amount is necessary. Dusting with Paris green diluted with bulk with twenty parts of finely ground lime and shaken from cheesecloth bags or blown from a suitable powder gun over the foliage is also recommended. The powder is dusted on the plants according to the schedule for spraying against aphids.

Many potatoes planted early in New York State have rotted in the ground. "Red Rot" and "Its Control" is the title of Bulletin No. 1179 published by the University of California Experiment Station, Lafayette, Ind.

The pig and the chicken are best for quick meat production. Lime will speed up garden crops. It is particularly beneficial on new land. For both flower and vegetable gardens hydrated lime is safest to use. Sprinkle it around the base of the plants and along the rows close to the plants, but not touching them, and work it in the soil.

FARM MANURE WASTE.
The United States is losing every year through a waste of farm manure five times more fertility than is added in commercial fertilizer purchased by farmers. There is now less excuse than ever before for its waste. Most of the loss is due to letting the manure leak out before it is put on the fields.

Barnyard manure is a by-product and affords a means of returning to the soil the unused portion of the crop. This is the year of all years when the most should be made of all possible economic fertility measures. Much nitrogen will go into manure. Sodium nitrate will therefore be scarce and the other carriers of nitrogen will be correspondingly high in price. Potash is practically unobtainable. Manure carries not only nitrogen and potash but some phosphorus as well, and the New York State College of Agriculture urges that the farmer should make all possible use of this source of plant food.

Farm manure carries but small percentages of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash as compared to common commercial fertilizers. It is usually applied in such large doses, however, that the aggregate amount of plant food added is large. Twenty tons of manure is equivalent, as far as fertility is concerned, to a ton of quickly available mixed fertilizer and to a ton of slowly available fertilizer besides.

In addition there are the benefits derived from the added organic matter and the stimulated bacterial action, and we cannot afford in the present crisis to neglect or waste such values.

Use Manure at Once.
Not only should all possible farm manure be used, but it should be used as soon as possible. Storage even for a short time and under the best conditions entails waste and losses of from one-third to one-half of the fertilizer value of manures. Once in the soil it is safe. We cannot afford the storage waste in peace, and much less in war time.

Manure is an unbalanced fertilizer in that it carries too much nitrogen for its phosphorus. Acid phosphate is obtainable and can be used to advantage in correcting this deficiency.

Added at the rate of from fifty to 100 pounds per acre of phosphate of soda and the phosphate may be markedly raised. The return from this reinforced manure will also be increased by fitness of division and uniformity of spreading. The use of a manure spreader is advised wherever possible. When the amount of manure is limited smaller applications over a larger area will raise the crop yield for each ton applied.

Spraying with a solution of two pounds of powdered arsenate of lead or four pounds of arsenate of lead in



A California violet garden.

the paste form or one pound of Paris green to fifty gallons of water should be begun against the cabbage caterpillar as soon as the plants are set out and should be repeated again while the plants are small if necessary. The common cabbage worm is the larva of the small white butterfly having black tipped wings. Micro can be used for cabbage caterpillar, applied with a blow gun made for the purpose.

Lettuce, cabbage and cauliflower plants can be set out, filling up any vacant spaces in the garden. Celery for early use can also be planted and tomatoes set out now will probably encounter good weather and set along without check. Eggplants will do better if kept growing in the house until the weather becomes warmer or about June 1. A few eggplants set out and protected nights and cold days with a box with a glass cover will have a little time to catch a little warmth from the sun to hold over night. Many bedding plants can be set out now, pansies, tradescantias, vinca, etc. Begonias, caladiums and cannas will do better if not set out until the first of June. It will be a good plan to purchase all plants now, as later stocks will be exhausted.

MY FIRST GARDEN.
Everybody has at some time or other in their life experiences which they now regard as laughable. I recall my first garden. After much care in cutting the Irish Cobbler potatoes and allowing exactly two eyes to each piece the task of planting was undertaken.

I equipped myself with hoe, rake and rule. They were to be planted sixteen inches apart, and a piece of wood that length kept them the proper distance. After this operation earth was hoed over them and then raked smoothly.

Ground for the other vegetables was dug and sown with beans, radishes and lettuce. Their table waste went into storage for winter consumption at the highest price in the history of the industry. Lowest prices this spring about 35 cents per dozen, as compared with 22 cents last year. At that there were almost four million dozen less eggs placed in storage up to April 15 as compared with the same period last year.

PRUNING, SPRAYING AND FERTILIZING.
By W. B. HOWE.
The responsibility of the nursery ends and the planter begins upon delivery of the stock. Do not expose the roots to the sun and drying winds. After the planting the next thought is to secure a healthy, vigorous growth. This can be done by frequent cultivation, say once or twice a week until the last week of July, and then stop cultivating. After this cultivation tends to prolong the growing season and does not give the wood a chance to ripen or harden, and then winter injury occurs.

Avoid excessive pruning in a young orchard. It checks the growth. A certain amount is necessary in order to form a well balanced head for a tree, but cutting away the tops, leaving a few stubs, is excessive. Pruning is not practical primarily to facilitate spraying, but among other benefits derived from that practice is the increased ease with which spraying can be accomplished, and the great saving in materials on pruned trees. The trees should be opened up to sunlight and through the top should be removed. If two branches touch, either remove one of them. If a branch on one side of the tree has outgrown another on the opposite side, head it back to effect symmetry, cutting it off just above an outside bud.

The subject of spraying is so broad that to attempt to cover it in a single article would be folly, but we all know that in every garden or orchard at some time or another insects appear. Insects are little things, but as little as they are they do \$100,000,000 worth of damage annually in this country. One kind eats and chews, another kind pierces the skin or leaves or twigs and sucks the plant or tree life. Still another kind bores right into the wood.

Your grandfather's idea of running an orchard or farm of any kind is passe. It cannot be done now without a thorough knowledge of the present day requirements, and spraying is one of the most important. The farmer who thinks it does not pay to spray is generally the one who sells the crop on the trees or in the field and has little or nothing to do with the packing and marketing. Furthermore, commission buyers will nearly always "blacklist" those who do not spray, because the best fruit and vegetables bring the best prices.

The job must be done thoroughly. Get and follow a good spraying calendar, which will be sent free to any one applying to THE SUN Garden Department. It tells how and when to use an arsenical poison, such as Paris green, arsenate of lead and Bordeaux.

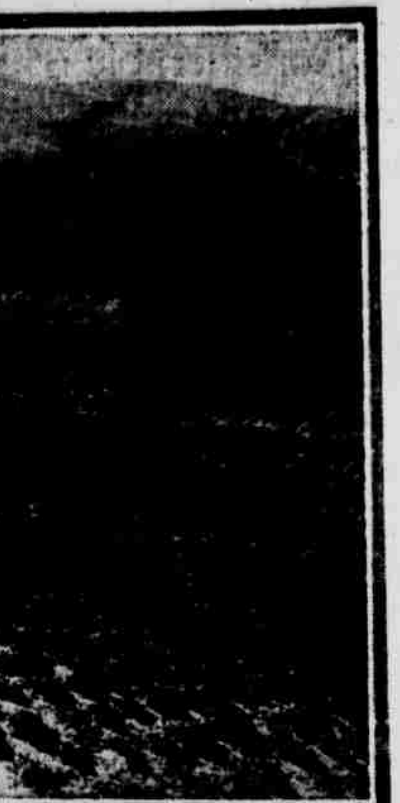
and when to use a contact spray for scale, such as lime sulphur or kerosene emulsion, and how to prevent blight. Seed this year commands a high price and full crops are needed, and every plant, as far as possible, should be saved from attack by disease and insects.

Spraying or dusting, from the standpoint of money returned for the expenditure, is a good investment. In any season it will pay 100 per cent. While at the best it often means the difference between a good crop and no crop at all.

The fertilizers advertised in THE SUN, used according to the directions supplied by the manufacturers, will give good results. No one can afford to operate a farm or garden without the liberal use of good fertilizers.

MORE POULTRY AND EGGS NEEDED.
Our nation is at war! The first necessity is food. Every fighter and every worker must have enough to eat. Our President has stated that "the world's food reserves are low" and that upon the producers of food "in large measure rests the fate of the war."

America's supply of meat is much smaller than usual, and we must look to America's flocks of poultry to make good this deficiency.



A California violet garden.

Even city dwellers with but limited back yards can support small flocks of fowls and convert their table waste into eggs and meat for home use. In this crisis the home flock of poultry is equally as important as the home garden.

We urgently need, must have, more eggs and poultry rather than less. President Wilson's appeal has been supplemented by an appeal of E. E. Richards, president of the American Poultry Association, to keep on hatching through May and June—to help increase poultry production in the United States one hundred million pounds.

We have talked patriotism—now we will talk profit. Fresh eggs are going into storage for winter consumption at the highest price in the history of the industry. Lowest prices this spring about 35 cents per dozen, as compared with 22 cents last year. At that there were almost four million dozen less eggs placed in storage up to April 15 as compared with the same period last year.

"Dollar eggs" next winter seems a certainty. The proposed Government regulation of food prices will surely prove a big factor in reducing the high price of feed. In addition, if the United States Government prohibits the manufacture of liquors, hundreds of millions of bushels of barley and corn will be saved for other uses. If wheat is high feed barley and reduce feed costs without seriously checking production.

So keep every good layer, raise plenty of chicks and help to swell the national output of eggs and meat. Here is an opportunity and a duty, so act now!

TRADE NOTES.
W. C. Rickerts, Jr., left last Tuesday for an extended Western trip to visit his friends in the trade.

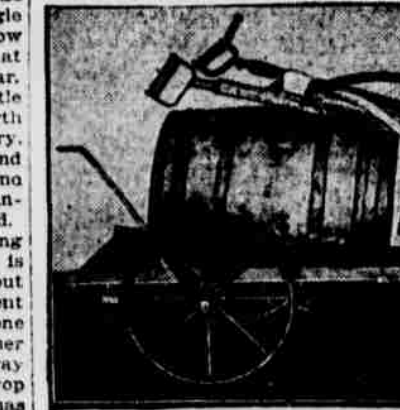
Vaughan's seed store has had the busiest season in its history. Manure dealers and the employees have worked nights for weeks trying to keep up with the orders. The store is crowded with customers daily. The sale of flower and vegetable plants has been enormous.

Micro is a dry dust insecticide and

Buckwheat as a catch crop. Plan to increase the buckwheat area by sowing all land where other crops have failed and where meadows and pastures promise to give very light yields is the suggestion of the State College of Agriculture, which says that New York and Pennsylvania produce more than two-thirds of the total buckwheat crop of the United States, and that this year New York farmers have an opportunity to help the nation by producing more of this crop. Besides furnishing a valuable human food, buckwheat middlings are much in demand as food for dairy cows on account of their high protein content. Buckwheat grain is relied by poultry, and because of the high prices for poultry feeds should be planted by poultry farmers this year.

Buckwheat may be seeded as late as the last week in June or the first week in July. In order to avoid hot weather while grain is forming it is desirable to sow it as early as possible and yet have the crop well developed before severe frosts occur. This year it would be well to obtain a supply of buckwheat seed—about four pecks for an acre—as a preparedness measure against possible early failure of other field crops, for it has no rival as a catch crop in New York State.

TRACTOR SPRAYER



This is the celebrated Universal Tractor—the best tractor for garden use. Valuable also for farm purposes. Low in price; easily operated. Suitable for all power purposes. Saves its cost and more the first season. Do more work than two horses, is easier to handle and much more economical. Spray pump is one of many attachments; easily and quickly put in place or detached. Pump maintains a pressure of 150 lbs. at all times whether tractor is in motion or not. The best sprayer for potatoes, spraying three rows, operator riding for orchard and ornamental trees, small fruits and all farm and garden work.

Other attachments are Cultivator, Plow, Lawn Mower, etc. The only machine of the kind. I am the oldest tractor manufacturer, operator and dealer in the East. Consult me before purchasing. My advice will save you time and money.

fungicide sold by the Vreeland Chemical Company of 50 Church street, New York. It will prevent attacks of insects and diseases on potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes and other vegetable and fruit plants, also on roses, asters and other flowering plants. It does not burn, adheres well and will give satisfactory results. It is composed of arsenate of lead and sulphur, put up in packages of various sizes from one pound to a barrel.

HOW TO PRESERVE EGGS.

A year hence eggs are likely to sell as high as \$1 a dozen, and possibly higher. Those who have back yards will do well to keep chickens, for the eggs produced and for meat. Meat will undoubtedly continue to advance in price and chickens can be raised, fed largely on the scraps from the table, so as to produce a cheap source of meat.

Eggs can be put down now at present prices for use next spring, when the price of fresh eggs will make their use prohibitive. We republish directions for preserving eggs for the benefit of those who wish to pack eggs at the present time.

Eggs must be fresh and perfectly infertile; the shells must be clean and free from cracks. A single cracked egg may cause the whole batch to spoil. Get water glass solution from the drug store, dilute with nine parts of cool boiled water and place eggs in small crock or jar containing the water glass. The solution should cover the eggs to a depth of two inches above the topmost layer of eggs. Cover the crock and place in a cool place where it will not have to be moved about. Replace the water which evaporates with cool boiled water occasionally.

Limewater may be used in place of water glass. Make the solution with three pounds of unslaked lime in five gallons of cool boiled water and use the clear liquid after the lime settles. Containers for eggs must be clean and should be scalded with hot water after washing.

Eggs preserved in water glass or limewater should be rinsed in clean, cold water and used immediately after taking them from the solution. They can be used for soft boiling up to November, frying until December, and after that until March for omelets, scrambled and in cooking.

Beets, carrots and turnip seed can be sown in July for a fall crop. Parsnips require a whole season for development. Beets should be sown half an inch apart and thin when four or five inches high to stand an inch apart. When the bottoms are half an inch in diameter take out every other one for immediate use.

Carrot seed is small and germinates shyly. The seedlings are delicate and of slow growth. Sow three to six seeds in an inch and thin to three-quarters of an inch apart when about an inch high. When the carrots are an inch in diameter or a little larger pull and use part of them and leave the balance to grow to full size. A few radish seeds put in the way between the rows will help the young seedlings to break through the ground.

Turnips are grown the same as beets. Radish seed may be sown between the rows of all the above, as they develop quickly and will be out of the way before the space is needed by the other plants.

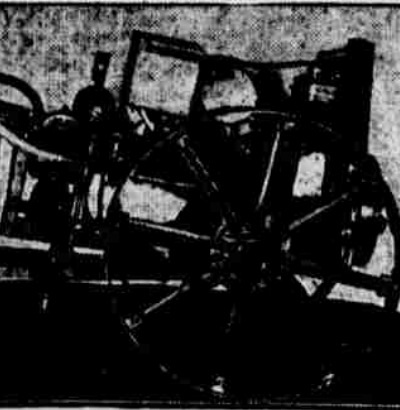
In the hill one to two quarts of Alpha humus should be roughly mixed with the soil. In the row spread it two or three inches wide and an inch deep, roughly mixed with the soil, side dressing the rows, or it can be broadcast between the rows and harrowed or raked in.

Around trees and shrubs spread Alpha humus an inch thick and rake or dig it in. Prepared stable manure can be used in the same manner.

BUCKWHEAT AS A CATCH CROP.
Plan to increase the buckwheat area by sowing all land where other crops have failed and where meadows and pastures promise to give very light yields is the suggestion of the State College of Agriculture, which says that New York and Pennsylvania produce more than two-thirds of the total buckwheat crop of the United States, and that this year New York farmers have an opportunity to help the nation by producing more of this crop. Besides furnishing a valuable human food, buckwheat middlings are much in demand as food for dairy cows on account of their high protein content. Buckwheat grain is relied by poultry, and because of the high prices for poultry feeds should be planted by poultry farmers this year.

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Next Saturday afternoon, May 26, at 4 o'clock a lecture will be delivered in the Museum building by Dr. A. E. Stout on "Modern Methods of Producing Seeds for Farm and Garden." The lecture will occupy one hour and will be illustrated by lantern slides. The following lectures will be given at the same place and at the same time:

June 2—"Vacant Lot Gardening" by Carl Banwart.
June 3—"Garden Roses" by Prof. A. C. Beal (exhibition of roses and peonies, June 9 and 10).
June 16—"The Seaweeds of New York and Vicinity" by Dr. M. A. Howe.
June 22—"Lilies for Everybody" by Arthur Harrington.
June 29—"The Food Value of Mushrooms" by Dr. W. A. Murrill.

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